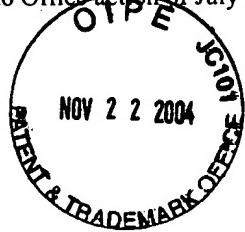


Appl. No. 09/880,612  
Amdt. dated: September 29, 2004  
Reply to Office action of July 1, 2004



# COPY

Docket No. 52478-0500

**Reply under 37 CFR 1.116  
Expedited Procedure  
Examining Group 2877**

Appl. No.: 09/880,612  
Applicant: Kenji Mukai  
Filed: June 13, 2001  
Docket No.: 52478-0500  
Customer No.: 21611

Confirmation No.: 7017  
Examiner: Pham, Hoa Q.  
TC/A.U.: 2877  
O.A. Date: July 1, 2004  
Resp. Date: September 29, 2004

**RULE 1.116 RESPONSE AFTER FINAL**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office action of July 1, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.